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Approved For Release 2004/03/23 : CIA-RDP82-00400R000300100135-4
IAC-D-100/1

8 December 1955

Validity Study of NIE 70:

Conditions and Trends in Latin America Affecting US Security,

published 12 December 1952

1. The basic social, economic, and military conditions in Latin America continue to be those described in NIE 70. Current developments confirm the characterization of Latin America in NIE 70 as an area experiencing accelerated social change accompanied by rapid, but unbalanced, economic development, and consequently a region of political instability.

2. The key political estimate in NIE 70, a continuing trend toward radical nationalistic regimes, has not been borne out by current developments. Instead, the present tendency is toward a more moderate political orientation in Latin America. However, the basic conditions which underlay the political estimate in NIE 70 are still present and potentially effective.

3. The reversal of the trend toward radical nationalistic regimes and the increased willingness of Latin America to co-operate with the United States were caused by external as well as internal factors. In some cases the United States exerted a positive influence to reverse the trend toward extremism identified in NIE 70 and other intelligence estimates. In Bolivia and Guatemala, for example, contributions were made to the emergence and preservation of moderate, anti-Communist leadership. Among other external factors the end of the Korean War reduced Latin American fears of involvement and encouraged a greater willingness to co-operate with the United States. Internal factors centered in the failure of radical and demagogic Latin American regimes to satisfy the demand for more rapid material progress. In Argentina and Brazil such regimes intensified social cleavages which provoked reactions by military elements.